

# INFORMATION REPORT

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NOFORN

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COUNTRY

## East Germany

## REPORT

**SUBJECT**

# Report of Outbreak of Rinderpest in the DDE

DATE DISTR.

28 February 1955

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NO. OF PAGES

3

REQUIREMENT NO.

RD

## REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE ACQUIRED

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This is UNEVALUATED Information.

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1.

meeting [redacted] was called [redacted] 2  
for the purpose of alerting and instructing [redacted] with regard to the danger 25X1  
of the spread of rinderpest from the DDR [redacted] At the meeting a  
letter [redacted]

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described the outbreak of a cattle disease in the DDR as follows: "In the area near Leipzig a cattle disease has been observed in which the animals show:

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a. Slight elevation of temperature,

b. Marked inflammation and ulceration of the mucous membrane of the stomach 25X1

c. Moderate inflammation of the mucous membrane of the entire intestinal tract.

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d. Marked inflammation of the mucous membrane of the rectum,

e. Slight to moderate inflammation of the mucous membrane of the mouth, 25X1

f. Rapid emaciation and loss of weight,

g. Central nervous system disturbances,

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#### h. High mortality rate,

The disease appears to be very contagious but the geographic rate of spread is not as great as that in foot and mouth disease".

2. This disease also exists in Mecklenburg and the Altmark area of lower Saxony. On 10 January 1955, a cattle disease with the same symptoms was reported to have broken out in the area near the Zonal border of lower Saxony. Diagnostic tests were being made by means of animal inoculation but no information is available on the results of these tests.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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3. The symptoms of this disease point to rinderpest except for the absence of a very high temperature and the lack of ulceration of the buccal mucous membranes.

The cattle of this area have not been exposed to rinderpest since 1878. It is believed that the disease was brought into the DDR through importation of live hogs from China.

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4. The official diagnosis of this disease by East German veterinary authorities is "infectious gastro-enteritis". In the Altmark area, local veterinary officials have officially stated that the disease is an arsenical poisoning caused by ingestion of contaminated fodder, in spite of the fact that all animals ingesting the same fodder have not become affected with the disease entity.

5. Prof. Dr. Rudolph Manninger, director of the Institute for Epizootics, Veterinary Medical College at Budapest (Institut fuer Seuchenlehre der Veterinaermedizinischen Hochschule zu Budapest), Prof. Dr. St. Angelov, director of the Institute for Microbiology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Institut fuer Mikrobiologie der Bulgarischen Akademie der Wissenschaften), Sofia, and Prof. Gobbstein (fnu) of Humboldt University, Berlin, have been in the area and examined affected cattle. All three declared that the cattle were infected with a virus disease but that the disease was not rinderpest.

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6.

1. Comment: Deutsche Tierarztliche Wochenschrift, 62 Jahrgang, No. 1/2, 11 January 1955, reported that Prof. Dr. R. Manninger was on a trip to the DDR and had delivered a lecture at Leipzig on 18 and 19 October 1954.

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2. Comment: The Tieraerztliche Umschau, 10 Jahrgang, No. 1, 1 January 1955, reported that Prof. Dr. St. Angelov was on a study trip through the DDR and had been a guest lecturer at the Veterinary Medical Faculty of the Karl-Marx University in Leipzig on 19 and 20 November 1954.

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